

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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O R 172345Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4572
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2643

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: PRD LEADERS WARN EMBASSY OF IMMINENT VIOLENCE

1. CREDIBLE REPORT REACHED EMBASSY LATE THIS AFTERNOON THAT PRD WAS ORGANIZING MASS DEMONSTRATION IN DEFIANCE OF STRATEGICALLY DEPLOYED MILITARY FORCES IN THE CAPITAL. EMBOFFS ARRANGED HASTY MEETING WITH PRD LEADERSHIP IN PRIVATE HOME TO ASCERTAIN THEIR INTENTIONS AND TO URGE MAINTENANCE OF COOL POSTURE PARTY HAS SHOWN FOR PAST 24 HOURS.

2. NEITHER SECGEN PENA GOMEZ, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS REMAIN A MYSTERY, NOR PARTY PRESIDENT JORGE BLANCO WERE AVAILABLE, BUT NATIONAL CANDIDATES GUZMAN AND MAJULTA PLUS OTHER PARTY LEADERS WERE ASSEMBLED IN ONLY CROWD TO APPEAR TODAY IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA. EMBOFFS MET PRIVATELY WITH GUZMAN AND MAJLUTA TO OUTLINE REPORTS OF IMMINENT VIOLENCE REACHING EMBASSY AND TO INQUIRE AS TO FACTS.

3. BOTH MEN, UNLIKE MANY OF THEIR SULLEN FOLLOWERS GATHERED AROUND PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND NEARBY HOUSE WHERE MEETING TOOK PLACE, WERE CALM AND QUITE IN CONTROL OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR
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FOLLOWERS. THEY APPEARED CONFIDENT THEY ARE THE ELECTED NEXT PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND SEEMED DETERMINED NOT TO BE DENIED THEIR VICTORY BY "BLATANT FRAUD."

4. THEY STATED THERE WOULD NOT BE A DEMONSTRATION TODAY; THEY WILL QUIETLY AWAIT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES TO BUILD TO THE POINT WHERE BALAGUER AND NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF NEIT NIVAR

ABANDON THEIR ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE ELECTION. THEY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY CANNOT HOLD THEIR FOLLOWERS BACK INDEFINITELY AND THEY SAID THEY HAVE "AN OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE" TO CHALLENGE DIRECTLY THE EFFORT TO DENY THEM THE FRUITS OF THEIR VICTORY.

5. BOTH ASSERTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF HIS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ARE AT STAKE AT THIS MOMENT IN THE DOM REP. PRESIDENTS CARTER AND BALAGUER, THEY SAID, TOGETHER "COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THE WORLD" TO WORK FOR ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND STRENGTHENING OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, DURING BALAGUER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST SEPTEMBER. THEY SAID THEY EXPECT SOME STRONG SIGN OF SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON AS THEY CONFRONT PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND THE DOMINICAN MILITARY.

6. "ALTHOUGH WE MAY BE DEAD TOMORROW," MAJLUTA SAID, "WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE OUR RIGHT TO TAKE OVER THIS GOVERNMENT WHICH WE WON IN A FREE AND OPEN ELECTION." MAJLUTA APPEARED DETERMINED AND OBVIOUSLY CONFIDENT THE RIGHT WAS ON HIS SIDE. GUZMAN, NORMALLY THE SOFTEST OF PERSONALITIES, SHOWED THE SAME DETERMINATION, PLUS UNUSUAL FORCEFULNESS.

7. GUZMAN SAID IT WOULD BE "A MAJOR TRAGEDY" IF BALAGUER AND THE MILITARY SUCCEEDED IN MAINTAINING THEMSELVES IN POWER. IF THIS HAPPENS, HE SAID, "THE DOMINICANS WILL LOSE FAITH IN DEMOCRATIC CONFIDENTIAL

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PROCESSES, WHICH THE PRD RIGOROUSLY RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THIS CAMPAIGN."

8. COMMENT. THE MEETING ENDED ON THIS NOTE, AND THE TWO MEN REGROUPED WITH PARTY LEADERS. THEIR PREDICTIONS OF VIOLENCE, MADE TO EMBOFFS IN NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS WHEN THE SUBJECT OF INTERVENTION OF FRAUD WERE DISCUSSED AS HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS BEFORE THE ACTUAL ELECTION, NOW SEEM TO BE MORE CREDIBLE. YOST

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